



**DATE:** August 17, 2000

# **STATE MINING & GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **MINING RECLAMATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **Item 2 – Review of responses to Request for Proposal for a mine inspection contractor for surface mines in El Dorado County and establishment of a recommended contractors list.**

**BACKGROUND:** The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code [PRC] § 2710 et seq.) provides for the reclamation of mined lands as necessary to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and to protect the public health and safety. Surface mines operating within the State of California are required to have lead agency approved reclamation plans, financial assurances, and permits prior to conducting mining activities.

Reclamation plans describe in detail how those lands disturbed by mining activities will be reclaimed to a usable condition that is readily adaptable for alternative land uses following the completion of surface mining activities. Financial assurances are required to guarantee that funds will be available to reclaim disturbed lands in accordance with the requirements of the approved reclamation plan. Financial assurances must be reviewed annually, and a determination made by the lead agency if the financial assurances are to be modified to reflect changes in the amount of land subject to reclamation and changes in the costs to conduct reclamation activities. Permits from various agencies may be required to define specific operating parameters for the mining operation.

SMARA provides that not less than annually, each surface mine in the State shall undergo an inspection conducted under the auspices of its lead agency. This annual inspection is to determine if the surface mine's operations are in compliance with the requirements of SMARA. The results of these inspections are presented to the lead agency and to the Director, Department of Conservation. If a surface mine's operations are found to be out of compliance, the operation will be ordered by either the lead agency or the Director to make the necessary corrections. Failure to make the corrections may result in monetary penalties or mine closures, or both.

SMARA, also, provides that under specific circumstances, the State Mining and Geology Board shall exercise some or all of a lead agency's SMARA powers.

On March 9, 2000 the State Mining and Geology Board assumed the SMARA authority from El Dorado County (County) to conduct annual surface mine inspections for an indeterminate period, but for not less than three years. At that time there were 13 mine sites within the County subject to annual inspections under SMARA.

Commencing in the second half of 2000, the State Mining and Geology Board will be conducting annual surface mine inspections pursuant to SMARA (PRC § 2774) for those mines in El Dorado County. It is anticipated that most of the mine inspections will be performed between late August and November.

**SCOPE OF WORK: Field Inspection of Surface Mines Subject to SMARA**

This project will entail the detailed field inspection of all surface mines that are subject to SMARA in El Dorado County, and the preparation of reports to the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) on the operational status of each mine, the mine's compliance with the requirements of SMARA and its reclamation plan, and the adequacy of the current financial assurance. For planning purposes, it is suggested that one day in the field (for site inspection) and one day in the SMGB office (for mine record familiarization) should be allowed for each of the possible 13 mine sites subject to inspection.

Prior to conducting the actual field inspection, the successful contractor will be required to become familiar with the requirements of the existing reclamation plan, financial assurance, and permits for each mine site, as well as the results of previous site inspections. The review of existing surface mine documentation will need to be performed in Sacramento at the SMGB office.

All inspections shall be conducted using a form developed by the Department of Conservation and approved by the SMGB. Additional geological and engineering reports deemed necessary by the inspector may also be prepared by the inspector. Within two weeks of completion of the inspection, the signed inspection form and any additional reports shall be filed with the Executive Officer of the SMGB.

**Attendance at Meetings**

Included in the scope of work to be performed will be the requirement to attend regularly scheduled SMGB meetings to present the results and conclusions of the inspections. These meetings may be held in different locations throughout the State.

**SOLICITATIONS INSTRUCTIONS:** The Applicant must provide a detailed proposal, including itemized costs anticipated (salary, benefits, overhead, and travel expenses) for reviewing information in Sacramento, evaluating and analyzing data collected, travel to SMGB meetings, and field inspection activities.

The proposal shall include the applicant's professional qualifications, including education and experience in mine reclamation planning, professional licenses, knowledge

of surface mining operations, familiarity with the requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 and the SMGB's Reclamation Standards as contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR § 3500 et seq. and § 3700 et seq.), and a list of previous clients that may be contacted for reference. The successful applicant shall possess a valid registration as either a California Registered Geologist or a California Registered Professional Engineer.

Any potential conflicts of interest must be identified. A potential conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, any work performed as an employee or consultant in any capacity by any of the surface mines to be inspected within the previous 12 months.

**PROPOSAL EVALUATION:** The proposal will be evaluated by the Executive Officer of the SMGB, the Chairman of the SMGB, and by selected SMGB members. Criteria for selection shall be such factors as professional excellence, demonstrated competence, specialized experience of the applicant, education and experience of key personnel to be assigned, staff compatibility, workload, ability to meet schedules, nature and quality of completed work, reliability and continuity of the applicant or firm, location, and other considerations deemed relevant.

**RESPONSES RECEIVED:** The SMGB's Request for Proposal (RFP) was published in the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper on June 15, 2000, by the Integrated Marketing Systems of San Diego on June 16, 2000, and the California State Contracts Register on June 21, 2000. In addition, copies of the Request for Proposal were sent to firms that had previously contracted with the SMGB for services. The SMGB office received 14 inquiries regarding the RFP. From these inquiries, 7 submitted no proposals, 4 responded with a "decline to bid" at this time, and 3 firms submitted proposals. Proposals from those three firms are summarized following.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS:** (Listed in alphabetical order)

Firm	Location	License Qualifications	*Estimated Total Costs	**Estimated Costs per Mine
Alvin Franks	Sacramento, CA	Reg. Geologist Cert. Eng. Geologist Cert. Hydrogeologist	\$35,730	\$2,748
	<b>Experience:</b> Meets educational, professional, and experience qualifications.			

\* Estimated Total Costs: \$2,590 per inspection X 13 mines = \$33,670  
 Estimate 4 SMGB meetings @ \$515/ meeting = \$ 2, 060  
 Estimated Total Costs .....= \$35,730

\*\* Estimated Cost per Mine: \$35,730 / 13 mines .....= \$ 2,748  
 Estimated Costs per Mine will fluctuate depending on actual time required, and will be billed accordingly.

Firm	Location	License Qualifications	Estimated Total Costs	*Estimated Costs per Mine
SRK	Reno, NV	Reg. Geologist Reg. Prof. Engineer	\$43,629	\$3,356
	<b>Experience:</b>	Meets educational, professional, and experience qualifications.		

\*Estimated Costs per Mine will fluctuate depending on actual time required, and will be billed accordingly.

Firm	Location	License Qualifications	*Estimated Total Costs	**Estimated Costs per Mine
Testa Environment Corp.	Mokelumne Hill, CA	Reg. Geologist Cert. Eng. Geologist	\$32,962	\$2,535
	<b>Experience:</b>	Meets educational, professional, and experience qualifications.		

\*Firm's estimate for Total Cost is \$31,602 includes attendance at two SMGB meetings; the cost estimate in the table has been adjusted by SMGB staff to reflect attendance at an additional two SMGB meetings (\$1,360) to equalize comparisons with other respondents who used four SMGB meetings.

\*\* Firm's estimate for Cost per Mine is \$2,431 includes attendance at two SMGB meetings. The figure in the table reflects SMGB staff adjustments to include attendance at four SMGB meetings to equalize comparisons with other respondents who used four SMGB meetings.

Estimated Costs per Mine will fluctuate depending on actual time required, and will be billed accordingly.

**REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE:** The Committee is requested to review the proposals and evaluate the statements of qualifications and performance data for acceptability. Although cost considerations are a factor in the Committee's determination, the primary

consideration of the Committee should be the professional qualifications of the firm and the ability of the firm to perform the services required in a timely manner. The Committee must then rank, in priority of preference, those firms with whom the Committee desires the SMGB Chairman to enter into contract negotiations.